

For Immediate Release  
November 23, 2004  
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Atkinson Public Library  
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**NEW ATKINSON LIBRARY  
BREAKS GROUND WITH HELP FROM  
LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS**

**Atkinson, Neb., November 23, 2004 at 10:00 am** – Groundbreaking will take place at 210 W. State Street at the site for the new Atkinson Public Library. The facility will provide resources and services to the residents of Atkinson and surrounding areas. Margorie Osborne, President of the Friends of the Library Foundation will preside over the event.

Atkinson's new single story 6,875 sq. ft. public library, designed by Prochaska & Associates (Architecture and Engineering firm) will be built at an estimated cost of \$650,000 in the heart of Atkinson. It will feature areas for children, junior and adult reading, continued education, genealogy, circulations, offices and staff, media and collections, technology, study, and community meeting rooms. Wireless Internet computers, a drive up window and movable walls are just part of the plan to provide flexibility and convenience for library patrons and staff.

USDA Rural Development presented a \$53,360 grant funding check to Friends of the Library Foundation, Inc. symbolizing USDA's financial commitment to the library. Community development block grant funds of \$250,000 via the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, a Peter Kiewit grant of \$75,000 and donations of approximately \$300,000 comprised the balance of the funding.

Judy Hagan, Atkinson Library Director, had stated she is very excited to see the project get under way after more than 50 fund-raisers over the past two years and through the efforts of the community. The old Movie Theater had been converted to the current library years ago. The leaking roof, water damaged walls, inadequate electrical wiring, and ADA accessibility issues were just a few of the problems facing the over 70 year old facility. She additionally commented that the library was unable to accommodate the space necessary for housing the many resources needed in the facility.

"Atkinson's future library will be a valuable community asset that will assist the area rural residents in meeting their personal, educational and professional informational needs," stated Mary Gambill, rural development manager for USDA Rural Development.

The Friends of the Library Foundation, Inc. will own the new library to be leased back to the City of Atkinson. The City will manage and operate the library with a ½ cent city sales tax designated for library operations.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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